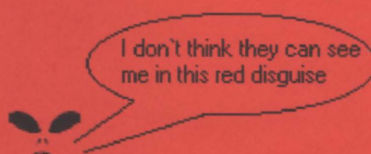


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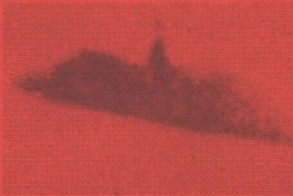
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Vol 3, # 4 (October 1999)

CONTENTS

1) TO MARS AND BEYOND...

"The Galactic Ghoul" Strikes Again?

2) UFOs OVER ENGLISH CHANNEL
SOLVED!

Dr. Dave Clarke

3) BERWYN WATCH ~1

Andy Roberts

5) CANADA's 'AVRO' FLYING SAUCER

Julian Borger

8) FROM AROUND THE WORLD- AND
BEYOND!!

*Octopus Conspiracy Claims Another
Electrochromatic Panels Tested At Area 51?
Experimental 'Tidal Wave' Bomb
And more...*

12) FORUM: Moongate

Did NASA really put men on the moon?

13) THE CIA's ROLE IN THE STUDY OF
UFOs (part 1)

Gerald K. Haines, CIA historian

UFOIN- a NEW START FOR BRITISH
UFOLOGY

Jenny Randles

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To re-print articles in this magazine
please enquire at the above address- that means me, Dave. I'm sure to say "yes", but it is nice to ask first, y'know?

The articles and views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, YUFOS members, or *Baby Stewie*.

"The question is, how much more black can this be, and the answer is none. None more black."

TO MARS AND BEYOND DEPARTMENT- The Great Galactic GhouL Strikes Again

From The Black Vault

In the 1960's, after several Mars missions ended with unexplained failures, the name "The Great Galactic GhouL" was coined in reference to the mysterious fates of Mars bound satellites. Conspiracy Journal is pleased to be able to bring to you a clip from the article "Mysterious Mars" by Tim Swartz.

THE GREAT GALACTIC GHOUL

*(originally printed in the magazine UFO
UNIVERSE.*

With the advancement of modern rockets, Mars became one of the first planets to receive the attention of space probes sent from Earth. Mars, though, has not been an easy planet to reach. In November of 1962, The Soviets launched a Mars probe, called Mars 1, which was to rendezvous with the planet in June of 1963. However, just ten weeks before the scheduled encounter, the Soviets lost contact with the spacecraft. Three years later the Soviets launched another probe called Zond 2, which was set to fly by Mars. This probe as well lost contact with Earth in April 1965.

In 1969, the United States sent the Mariner 7 probe to the red planet. In 1970 the probe lost radio communications with Earth, started tumbling out of control, its battery went dead, and the spacecraft's velocity increased. Mysteriously, a few hours later Mariner 7 suddenly ceased tumbling, radio communications were restored and the spacecraft's velocity returned to normal, despite the fact that its rocket system was inoperative. Nervous scientists began joking about "The Great Galactic GhouL" lying in wait for unsuspecting spacecraft to fly by.

The term Great Galactic GhouL was named by *Time Magazine* correspondent Donald Neff following the strange events surrounding the flight of Mariner 7. "The legend of the Great Galactic GhouL is like the legend of the Bermuda Triangle," commented John Casani of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The Soviets however, continued to lose Mars probes. On July 12, 1988 the USSR launched Phobos II, an unmanned satellite to Mars. It arrived in January 1989 and entered an orbit around Mars as the first phase towards it's real destination, the small Martian moon called Phobos. The mission was flawless until the craft aligned itself with the moon. On March 28, 1989 an elliptical object was detected moving towards the satellite seconds before it lost communication with Earth. All indications were that the elliptical object had possibly attacked the satellite which was now dead and left spinning out of control.

On March 28, 1989, *Tass*, the official Soviet news agency stated: "Phobos II failed to communicate with Earth as scheduled after completing and operation yesterday around the Martian moon Phobos. Scientists at mission control have been unable to establish stable radio contact."

The next day a top official of the Soviet Space Agency (Glavkosmos) said: "Phobos II is 99% lost for good."

On March 31, 1989 Headlines dispatched by the Moscow correspondents of the European News Agency (EFE) stated: "Phobos II Captured Strange Photos of Mars Before Losing Contact With It's Base. *Vremya* revealed yesterday that the space probe Phobos II, which was orbiting above Mars when Soviet scientists lost contact with it on Monday, had photographed an UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT on the Martian surface seconds before losing contact."

Scientists described the unidentified object as a thin ellipse 20 kilometers long. It was further stated that the photos could not be an illusion because it was captured by two different color cameras as well as cameras taking infrared shots. One controller at the Kaliningrad control center concluded that the probe was now spinning out of control. It would seem that something struck or shot the Phobos II Probe. In the October 19, 1989 issue of *Nature Magazine*, Soviet scientists concluded that the craft could be spinning because it was impacted by some unknown object.

UFOs OVER ENGLISH CHANNEL? SOLVED!

By Dr. David Clarke, and Bill Rose

Thanks to everyone who expressed an interest in my earlier message with regards the camcorder film allegedly depicting UFOs filmed from a 737 en route from Birmingham to Morocco. (*reported in last month's PRB, and shown at October's YUFOS meeting- Ed*).

The footage has now been examined by three independent sources, who have all reached the same conclusion with regards to the origin of the images. One of these was a colleague at Sheffield University, another was aviation writer Bill Rose whose observations and opinions follow.

To summarise, here is the gist of Bill Rose's email to colleague Gloria Dixon:

Frankly, I'm surprised anyone would give this tape a second glance, but here are my observations.

1) I can tell immediately from the quality that the camcorder was a low band model producing a maximum of 250 lines resolution, which gives a clear guide to the limit of overall sharpness. I can also deduce that the lens was set to wide angle for the rearward shot although details of the camera, chip size and zoom lens would have been useful for further analysis.

2) The island doesn't look like Guernsey to me. (and Jersey doesn't quite match but it is nearer) It might be one of several other possibilities, but I don't have a sufficiently detailed map to tell for sure. The identity of the island would give more useful data.

3) According to the blurb, footage taken earlier/later does not show any obvious features on the aircraft window. Where is this rearward facing footage?

With the lens set to wide angle on a camcorder, this provides the maximum zoom lenses. However, I am inclined to rule this out as there are no bright "off-axis" lights sources visible. (ie: reflective surfaces of any note)

range of image sharpness known as "depth of field." With a camcorder that has a very short focal length lens, the area of sharp focus is massive. (compared to an ordinary still camera) In bright conditions, it means that a tiny close-up object can be nearly as sharp as something big on the horizon.

Furthermore, perspective will usually create a misleading impression of a nearby image's size, making it seem much bigger than it really is. Windows in commercial airliners are protected by a secondary plastic screens and in many cases, these become marked and scratched.

It's also quite common to see cleaning marks and smears on the outside of the glass. Shooting through a double layer of non-optical quality glass/plastic at an oblique angle is an invitation to record dirt marks, minor optical defects/flare etc, and these are going to be rendered fairly clearly with a wide angle lens which provides a big depth of sharp focus.

Even if there are no artifacts visible in the images made earlier or later, this might be explained by changes in the aircraft's heading and the Sun's position or the positioning of the camera.

Slight repositioning (of the camera) can also make small nearby optical artifacts appear and disappear. The two small objects by the wing actually appear to move across it, suggesting parallax created by camera movement/position adjustment, which is another strong indication that nothing more than small window smudges are involved.

The other possibility would be internal lens flare, which is very common with mass produced

Another aircraft or a balloon seems very unlikely to me and despite anything you might be told, the resolution of this footage

is insufficient to allow any meaningful computer enhancement.

If a large percentage of the passengers had seen something unusual or there had been unidentified radar returns or whatever, then this tape might warrant further investigation.

In addition, a colleague of Gloria Dixon's, Paul Cabby, attached the following after a viewing of the footage:

" I concur entirely with Bill Rose's findings. As I said, it's not the camera because the marks don't move when the camera does. incidentally, I do not share Bill's optimism about a camcorders depth of field. Most camcorders equate (approx) to a 35-50 mm lens on a still camera, which is near the human perspective and I wouldn't consider that to be a particularly wide angle- however I take his point entirely about the sharpness of them, it's not the camera, so it has to be that it's either aircraft a long way away (unlikely) or

scratches on the window (almost certain as I can testify trying to take a picture of a F3 pilot smiling at me through the window of a VC10!)"

Case solved!

Dr. David Clarke

EDITOR's NOTE -

I must add at this point that, although I did not suspect there was anything 'otherworldly' about the footage, I did find it interesting in that I thought that it showed actual, physical objects of some sort - be they distant aircraft, balloons, or whatever. Then again- as is now more than obvious - I am no expert on video footage.

It does show though, how easily we can be fooled, and how we should be wary of all images of 'UFOs' until they have passed expert scrutiny... Dave Baker

BERWYN WATCH #1

By Andy Roberts

The hunt for evidence of a genuine crashed UFO of ET origin has generated a great deal of controversy since 1947.

To date the UK has held little of interest for the crashed saucer buff, with The Rendlesham Forest case being the only possible contender. However this case has failed to develop into anything other than a confused mish-mash of claim and counter-claim.

The collapse of Rendlesham as a crashed UFO case has left the post X-Files generation of UK ufologists desperate for a credible 'British Roswell' and to that end various stories and rumours have been rehabilitated, the most prominent of which is the so-called 'Berwyn Mountain UFO Crash'.

The details of this case are too long to post here for those who have little or no knowledge of the case but briefly:

An enormous explosion was heard and felt on the Welsh Mountain of Cader Berwyn at approx 8.30pm on 23rd January 1974

* Several local witnesses had seen unusual lights in the sky throughout the evening of the 24 Jan, both before and after the explosion

* A local nurse drove up on the mountain road and claimed she saw a large red/orange light with other lights moving above and below it on the hillside

* A search team from RAF Valley scoured the hillside but reported finding nothing

* The incident was widely reported in the media with no firm conclusions being reached

This is a very basic account of the event. However, there was no mention of crashed UFOs/alien bodies/cover-ups etc until the early 1990s when the case was dragged out of the closet and re-interpreted. Despite the majority of elements within the case being satisfactorily explained the Berwyn Mountain Incident is slowly being nudged forward into the position of a 'British Roswell'. The following elements are now embedded in the case

and people believe any permutations of the following took place:

- * Nothing, it was all a complicated misperception

- * It was a military crash

- * The mountain was cordoned off and witnesses were turned away

- * There was a huge military presence in the area for a week

- * An alien craft was found/bodies were removed

- * Radiation fall out in the area was high - leading to a leukemia cluster

- * There has been a massive military/police/media cover-up of information

- * Several crash retrieval team members have contacted leading ufologists with information about the event and so on

None of the second series of statements have been proven, yet are rapidly becoming part of ufolore.

What can be done?

The aim of Berwyn Watch is to chart a case-in-progress. If, as I believe, there is a concerted effort to make this case something it isn't then we have a chance here to get in 'on the ground floor' and chart the development of a myth. Alternatively, if on-going research by myself or anyone else throws up new information it can be aired in public before it becomes set in stone.

Berwyn Watch can also act as a forum to discuss queries anyone may have about the case, discuss source material and so on. Additionally any new articles, book references, mentions in lectures or in ufological gossip can be acknowledged and dated so that the origins of any new motif can be discovered and tracked. If you know of any such information please forward it to me.

Several of the UKs prominent and active ufologists have spent time on the case and have become players in the game, these include:

Paul Devereux (neutral)

Wrote about the case in 'Earthlights' and 'Places of Power'. Originally believed

Earthlight phenomena was responsible.

Jenny Randles (still thinks there is some mystery)

Has covered the case extensively in 'UFO Reality', 'UFO Retrievals' and in IUR, Northern UFO News, Sightings etc. Lectured about the case at conferences.

Tony Dodd (pro crashed ET craft)

Has written about the case in UFO (UK) magazine. Also in his book 'Alien Investigator'. Has lectured about it at UFO conferences. Refuses to reveal many sources of information.

Margaret Fry (pro crashed ET craft)

One of the original investigators in the case. Has published one or two articles. Refuses to share information or source material.

Nick Redfern (pro crashed ET craft)

Redfern has devoted several pages to the case in each of his three books (Covert Agenda, FBI Files, Cosmic Crashes). Redfern has changed his mind about several aspects of the case but still believes an ET craft crashed on Cader Berwyn. The case frequently features in his lectures.

Russel Kellett

Very little known about this person's views, but said to be a believer in the ET craft explanation.

Andy Roberts

Has done a great deal of investigation into this case. Brief summaries written for Fortean Times. Article on the case due in IUR in 2000. Full details of investigation in forthcoming book 'The UFOs That Never Were' (with Jenny Randles & Dr David Clarke), London House, Feb. 2000

There may be others who I am unaware of, working at a more local level. Again, please let me know if you know of someone with a specific interest in this case.

If you wish to know more about the case please consult any of the source materials given above. If anyone wants a more detailed bibliography of material on the case I will be pleased to supply one. Andy Roberts

CANADA'S 'AVRO' FLYING SAUCER- AND GERMAN DISC TECHNOLOGY

By Julian Borger

(*The Guardian* 9-25-99)

It Came From Outer Toronto...

Avro Canada is best remembered for the ill-fated Arrow, the supersonic jet fighter shelved by Ottawa in 1959. Now, newly-released CIA documents shed new light on another of the company's dreams - a flying saucer.

Washington — The year was 1952 and the Cold War was at full chill. The House Un-American Activities Committee was looking for reds under beds, and UFO sightings were spreading like an epidemic across the United States. Even Air Force pilots reported being pursued by flying saucers. The sense of dread was turning to frenzy, and the CIA decided something had to be done.

In one of his many memos on the subject, H. Marshall Chadwell, deputy head of the agency's Office of Scientific Intelligence, declared that "something was going on that must have immediate attention." He and others in the CIA were concerned that the Soviet Union was developing a secret weapon based on the "flying discs" that the Nazis had been rumoured to have constructed in the last months of the Second World War.

Recently released documents from the CIA archive are full of accounts by former German scientists of their desperate work to save the Fatherland with revolutionary circular aircraft supposedly capable of enormous speeds. But when the CIA set up a study group in 1952 to look into the phenomenon, it discovered something extraordinary far closer to home: In Canada, British engineers were in the process of building a flying saucer of their own.

It was called Project Y, a joint British-Canadian venture into the unknown that was, for much of the 1950s, perhaps the most secret aviation project in the West. Half a century on, the Project Y story remains a remarkable chapter in the history of aerial design, an idea that came tantalizingly close to breaking all the rules of the sky,

before collapsing in bitter disappointment for lack of money and faith.

Back in the '50s, the news that British boffins were building a saucer set off alarm bells at the CIA. Was the United States being left behind by its staunchest allies in the race for a technological edge? And if Britain and Canada could build a flying saucer, then surely the Soviet Union wouldn't be far ahead.

Mr. Chadwell wanted answers. The sense of urgency is tangible in a memorandum he sent in June of 1954 to his department heads, demanding reports on "the use by any foreign power or nation of non-conventional types of air vehicles, such as or similar to the 'saucer like' planes presently under development by the Anglo/British Canadian efforts."

While CIA agents were dispatched to watch eastern skies for flying saucers, U.S. Air Force officers were visiting Malton, just outside Toronto, the research headquarters of Avro Canada, a subsidiary of the British aircraft firm A.V. Roe Ltd.

After the war, Malton was the place to be for hotshot aircraft designers fleeing Britain's doomed aviation industry. Among them was a supremely talented 31-year-old, John Frost, who had already earned a reputation for unorthodox design with the sleek de Havilland 108, a swallow-shaped research plane and arguably one of the most beautiful aircraft of all time.

Mr. Frost was brought to Avro Canada to work on the CF-100 fighter, an ugly pug-nosed design he never really liked. He soon became obsessed with far more radical departures from orthodoxy. It is unclear whether he drew inspiration from the increasingly widespread popular legend of alien-piloted flying saucers skimming through the postwar skies or how much he relied on previous research.

He would have known about the "Coanda

effect," named after a French Romanian inventor, Henri-Marie Coanda, who experimented with the first rudimentary jet engine as early as 1910. He found that a turbojet would not only provide thrust; by sucking in air, it could also create a vacuum above the wing and thereby produce extra lift.

There is plenty of evidence that, in the closing stages of the Second World War, the Nazis began to experiment with secret weapons built around the Coanda effect. Among the documents in the CIA's "X-File" archives is an interview given by a German aeronautical engineer, Georg Klein, who claimed to have worked on a flying saucer under the supervision of Luftwaffe designers Rudolf Schriever and Richard Miethe.

Another document from the archives is a 1950 article written by a German émigré in Chile, Eduard Ludwig. The article, submitted to a Chilean magazine but apparently never published, was titled "The mystery of 'flying discs' -- a contribution to its possible explanation." It recounted Dr. Ludwig's wartime work at a Junkers research facility, where he helped to develop a "one-piece metal wing" functioning as a "speedily rotating top" capable of vertical takeoff and high speeds.

"The experiments turned out to be extremely difficult and involved many casualties," Dr. Ludwig observed drily, clearly rueful that the spinning-top experiments had not come to fruition before the arrival of the Red Army.

He concluded: "The future will show whether the 'flying discs' are only the products of imagination or whether they are the results of a far-advanced German science which possibly, as well as the nearly finished atomic bombs, may have fallen into the hands of the Russians."

Some of the Luftwaffe's top engineers did, indeed, end up in Moscow, while a handful, such as Wernher von Braun and Dr. Miethe, were spirited away to the West. Dr. von Braun, of course, became the father of the U.S. space program. No one seems sure what became of Dr. Miethe.

In his own work at Malton, John Frost seemed to be groping his way. He was in search of the aeronautical holy grail of the age, the vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) craft, but he began his research on a spade-shaped craft before settling in 1953 on a disc. The

original concept called for a single flat turbojet to draw in air from above and force it out through nozzles around the edge of the craft. It would be kept aloft by a cushion of air and pulled upward by the Coanda effect.

The early work was carried out in total secrecy; only a handful of Avro workers were told what was going on. "It was so secret that when Frost would come to the welding shop, he would sketch the piece he wanted on some paper and, when we had finished, we had to put the sketch in a special garbage bag," Alex Raeburn,

Avro's workshop superintendent at the time, recalls. Verne Morse, the company photographer, was made privy to the secret only once it had begun to take shape. "There was a stupid rumour going around the plant that we were building a flying saucer, and everybody was laughing about it," he says. "Then one day I was called in by security, and I was told I needed clearance because we were building a flying saucer."

"My first impression was that this was ridiculous," but when he was taken past the guards, through Project Y's double doors, and saw the smooth metal disc taking shape, he was speechless. "It was a sense of 'Wow!' Just real awe."

But Project Y's first year was proving troublesome. The jet engine blew so hot it melted the steel structure of the craft, and its violent shaking would pop the rivets. When the U.S. Air Force officers arrived in September of 1953, the Canadian government, having spent \$400,000 on the project, was glad to hand over the reins to a bigger sponsor. A.V. Roe, having failed to squeeze funds out of the British government, also welcomed the Americans with open arms.

In 1955, Project Y became the U.S. Defence Department's weapon system 606A, and a white USAF star was painted on the prototype's fuselage. Millions were now being poured into the project, and the cult of secrecy deepened yet further.

Mr. Raeburn recalls the day in 1959 that the U.S. Navy came to take the prototype away for wind-tunnel tests near Los Angeles. "We loaded it on a flatbed truck in the middle of the night. The police shut off all the traffic right down to Toronto harbour, and they put it on a U.S. tugboat. They even had one of our men sworn in to the U.S. Navy so he could go

with it, along the Erie Canal, along the New York intercoastal waterway, and through the Panama Canal."

With the help of U.S. financing, Mr. Frost had redesigned the original concept, placing three small jet engines around a central fan that would suck in the air through a circular intake at the centre of the disc. The pilot would sit in a little oval cockpit to one side under a perspex bubble.

But the wind-tunnel tests suggested that secret weapon 606A had severe stability problems and was in constant danger of flipping over like a stiff pancake once the throttles were opened on its jets. Mr. Frost and his assistants tinkered away at the problems for another year, but had still not mastered them by the winter of 1960 when Spud Potocki, a former Polish air force flier, took the prototype for its first flight.

Ernie Happe, another British engineer, was one of the few allowed to watch. "We were standing around it, and it was tethered with three cables to stop it flipping. It just went up a couple of feet off the ground, and Potocki was sitting in the cabin fiddling around with the controls, trying to make it do what it was supposed to."

Over the next few months, as Mr. Potocki attained a feel for the delicate controls, he was allowed to roam around the Avro compound, dodging in and out of hangars. Mr. Raeburn would often look out of his workshop window and see it floating by. "He would go up and down and hover over the concrete apron and look in the doors of the hangars. I remember the wind would suck the ice off the puddles and they would float around in the air like plates of glass."

Avro's management was overjoyed to see its flying saucer take to the air. The publicity department began designing brochures to capitalize on the aircraft's boundless potential for the day when the shroud of secrecy would drop away. It was to be called the Avrocar, and it would spawn a string of civilian and military spinoffs. There would be an Avrowagon for the family of the future, an Avroangel (an air ambulance that would zip to the scene of an accident and land on the spot) and an Avropelican for air-sea rescues and anti-submarine warfare.

Ken Palfrey, a draughtsman on the project, remembers Mr. Frost's far-reaching hopes. "He

was planning to make one four times as big to move troops in and out of battle, like helicopters do now."

The giant troop carriers would lurk under the enemy radar, drop their passengers and then zip into the stratosphere before the other side even spotted them. Mr. Happe recalls Mr. Frost excitedly visualizing the craft bouncing off the upper layers of the atmosphere, crossing continents in a single bound.

The reality was more mundane. The Avrocar hovered happily close to solid ground but became dangerously unstable at heights over 2.5 metres, however much Spud Potocki struggled with the controls. The USAF wanted to fit it with a tailplane to test whether that would correct the problem, but Mr. Frost, a design purist, refused to countenance the idea. "He wouldn't have it," Mr. Palfrey recalls. "When the Americans suggested that, it was about the only time I ever saw him angry."

Mr. Frost insisted he could fix the problems, but the U.S. military was rapidly losing interest. After spending \$7.5-million, the Defence Department pulled the plug at the end of 1961, killing the Avrocar. Mr. Frost left the country a bitter man. "He was completely fed up," Mr. Palfrey says. "It was a sad story. He was a fine guy. A gentleman."

The designer ended up in Auckland, where he spent the rest of his days dreaming up gadgets for Air New Zealand, such as a hydraulic tail dock to allow engineers easy access to commercial planes. But it was small beer compared to the cosmic ambitions of Project Y, and the sense of betrayal was as keen as ever when he finally retired in May of 1979.

In his valedictory interviews, Mr. Frost told the local press that he had been robbed of credit for inventing the Hovercraft by Sir Christopher Cockerell. The irony was that, at Malton, Mr. Frost's eyes had been so set on the skies he failed to spot the Avrocar's ground-hugging potential under his nose. Within a few days of leaving his job, he died. He was 63.

The legend of Project Y lives on in the Web pages of committed ufologists. Some speculate that it had been a stunning success, and the litany of design errors and disappointments recalled by Avro veterans was merely a cover story. Others believe the project was merely a smokescreen for the Pentagon's "real" flying saucer project being masterminded in secret

bases such as Roswell, perhaps by mysterious superannuated Nazis such as Dr Miethe.

As for secret weapon 606A, the prototype is gathering dust in a corner of a Maryland warehouse that serves as a storage facility for the National Air and Space Museum. Jack Walker, a veteran pilot who shows visitors around, cannot understand why anyone would want to see it, and warns me not to get too close lest I be abducted by aliens.

The burnished metal disc, about 15 metres across, is lying unsung and forlorn under the wing of a Second World War Black Widow fighter. The perspex bubble over the cabin has been removed, and its instrument panel is in a cardboard box somewhere else. But you can still see where the edges were charred in the effort to get John Frost's flawed vision off the ground.

FROM AROUND THE WORLD... AND BEYOND!!

UFOs, conspiracies, paranormal and fortan events compiled by Dave Baker

OCTOPUS CONSPIRACY CLAIMS ANOTHER?

The co-author of the book *The Octopus*, about a writer who died mysteriously investigating an international conspiracy, has died under mysterious circumstances. Jim Keith, who co-wrote *The Octopus* with Kenn Thomas based on the notes of writer Danny Casolaro, died at Washoe Medical hospital after going in for knee surgery.

Rumors suggest that he was killed after revealing the name of the physician who claimed Princess Diana was pregnant at the time of her death. "I have long noted the connections between the Octopus story and the death of Diana," says Keith's co-author, Kenn Thomas. The web news service where Keith named the source has become inaccessible since his death.

Danny Casolaro died in August 1991 in Martinsburg, West Virginia, of what appeared to be a suicide. He was investigating the theft of a super-surveillance software called PROMIS involving Justice Department officials and a shadowy international group he called the Octopus. Two congressional investigations of the PROMIS case (also known as the Inslaw case, after the name of the company that created PROMIS) recommended that Casolaro's death be investigated as a homicide.

Keith and Thomas obtained the notes that Casolaro left behind and made them the basis of

their book, *The Octopus*, published by Feral House in 1997.

"This rumor may be nonsense," Thomas said. "Casolaro may have committed suicide. It is the way of the Octopus. It exists but it doesn't exist. These are suicides or non-suspicious homicides or real accidents. They just happen to cluster coincidentally around a certain set of facts or a certain perception of an organized conspiracy. Keith himself would certainly have been suspicious of the circumstances of his own death, however"

Jim Keith fell from a stage at the Burning Man arts event held in Black Rock, Nevada, north of Reno, his hometown, and broke his knee. He went to the Washoe Medical hospital there and died during surgery on September 7 at 8:10 PM, when a blood clot released and entered his lung.

In addition to co-authoring *The Octopus* with Kenn Thomas, Keith wrote many other popular books on conspiracy topics, including *Mind Control/World Control*, *Black Helicopters I and II*, *OKC Bomb*, *Saucers of the Illuminati*, *Casebook on Alternative 3*, *Casebook on the Men In Black* and many others.

He was well-known and well-loved among the readers of conspiracy literature, and Thomas is receiving a great outpouring of grief and condolences from Keith's many fans around the world.

ELECTROCHROMATIC PANELS BEING TESTED AT GROOM LAKE /AREA 51?

(by Norio Hayakawa)

ELECTROCHROMATIC PANELS:

There are quite a number of new technologies being researched, developed and tested at various leading-edge defense contractor facilities, for example, at Groom Lake/AREA 51's highly compartmentalized, multi-faceted conglomerate complexes.

Besides a new generation of VTOL-based UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles - remotely-controlled surveillance platforms, some of which may be disk-shaped), there are ongoing development and testing of electrochromatic panels as part of innovations relevant to "daytime-stealth" capabilities.

The electrochromatic panels are comprised of thousands of tiny sensors that function as video-cameras that take images of background scenarios, transferring them to the other panels on the other side of the aircraft. This gives the illusion that the aircraft is almost transparent. What the ground observer sees is whatever background images behind (or above) the body of the aircraft that are transposed to the "observer's" side of the body of the aircraft.

For example, in a recent artist's rendition of a proposed "Stealth Blimp" (*POPULAR SCIENCE* - although the "panels" were not specifically mentioned, despite the fact that they would undoubtedly accomplish the effect), one can see the stars from above (and behind) the blimp, giving it an illusion of being transparent, and making detection somewhat difficult under certain conditions.

That an ongoing research, development and testing of such electrochromatic panels at locations such as at Groom Lake/AREA 51 may be taking place was first suggested in an article written by aviation writer, Bill Sweetman (*POPULAR SCIENCE* - May of 1997).

Coincidentally, after that article (suggesting that Groom Lake/AREA 51 was still abuzz with various projects) appeared on *POPULAR SCIENCE* of May, 1997, the June, 1997 issue of another magazine, *POPULAR MECHANICS*, in turn, strangely came out with an article by Jim Wilson suggesting that Groom Lake/AREA 51's operations were

transferred to Green River missile launch complex in Utah. This was the beginning of the false rumor that AREA 51 had moved to a new location in Utah.

(The Green River missile launch complex right now still appears to be an old, abandoned site, with nothing visible of any significance).

Moreover, if one were to look at significant programs in Utah, attention should rather be focused on DUGWAY PROVING GROUNDS, where lots of innovative programs are ongoing, for example, the latest research on biological-chemical warfare programs as well as non-lethal weapons systems.

In the meantime Nevada's Groom Lake/AREA 51 conglomerate complex is active as ever with new programs.

It is estimated that as of the summer of 1999, there are still anywhere from 1800 to 2300 defense-contractor employees constantly at work in highly compartmentalized projects.

HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS AND HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE MAXIMIZATION TECHNOLOGY

Research, development and testing is also taking place in another related aspect of electrochromatic panels, namely, the attachment of holographic projection devices capable of causing image size distortions, such as distorting the "size" of the aircraft "observed" by ground observers. For example, with this technology a black triangular aircraft, for example, could be seen to be three or four times its actual size to the ground observer.

This type of technology is part of the Department of Defense (DOD)'s emphasis on Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) or Psychological Warfare.

Recent years' sightings of huge black triangular aircraft (such as over Phoenix, Arizona in 1997) could possibly be related to testing of such devices to observe the reactions of the observers.

MUFON DIRECTOR TO RETIRE

After three decades of investigating and chronicling reports of unidentified flying objects, the 78-year-old Walt Andrus is

retiring as international director of the Mutual UFO Network.

With about 4,000 members worldwide, MUFON is the largest civilian UFO organization.

"I've been international director since 1970," Andrus said of heading the group he helped found in 1969. "I retired from the Motorola Corp. when I became 62. I'm just retiring again."

John Schuessler, MUFON's deputy director of administration, was chosen as the next international director.

EXPERIMENTAL BOMB TO CREATE HUGE TIDAL WAVE WAS TESTED IN 1944

(The Independent - 27/9/99)

Secret wartime experiments were conducted off the New Zealand coast to perfect a bomb that could trigger devastating tidal waves, according to government files declassified in Auckland. The *New Zealand Herald*, citing the files, said that senior United States defence officials believed the weapon had the potential to be as deadly as the atomic bomb. But the tsunami bomb, as it was known, was never fully tested and the war ended before the project was completed.

Its mastermind was Thomas Leech, an Australian professor who as the dean of engineering at Auckland University from 1940 to 1950. He was seconded to the New Zealand Army during the Second World War. He set off a series of underwater explosions that triggered mini tidal waves at Whangaparaoa, just north of Auckland, in 1944 and 1945.

Details of the research, known as Project Seal, are contained in 53-year-old documents released by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The papers, stamped "Top Secret", show that America and Britain were keen for Seal to be developed in the postwar years. They even considered sending Professor Leech to Bikini Atoll to watch the US nuclear tests and see if they had any application to his work.

In the end, he did not make the visit, although Dr Karl Compton, a member of the US board of assessors of nuclear tests, was sent to New Zealand to meet him.

In July 1946, a letter from Washington to

Wellington Defence Headquarters stated: "Dr Compton is impressed with Professor Leech's deductions on the Seal Project and is prepared to recommend to the Joint Chiefs of Staff that all technical data from the test, relevant to the Seal Project, should be made available to the New Zealand government for further study."

The announcement in 1947 that he had been awarded a CBE for weapons research led to speculation in some newspapers outside New Zealand about the nature of the work that he had been conducting. No details were released about it at the time because the project was still under way.

Neil Kirton, a former colleague of Professor Leech, told the *New Zealand Herald* that the experiments involved laying a pattern of explosives underwater to create a tidal wave. Small-scale explosions were set off in the Pacific and off Whangaparaoa, which was controlled by the army at the time. Mr Kirton said he doubted whether people living in Auckland at the time would have noticed the trials.

What happened to Project Seal once the final report was forwarded to Wellington in the late 1940s is not clear.

Mr Kirton said: "If it could ever be resurrected, under some circumstances I think it could be devastating."

MARS ORBITER LOST

NASA scientists have given up their search for the \$125 million Mars Climate Orbiter, which was lost after a navigation error pushed it fatally close to the planet.

"The spacecraft has been declared lost," said Mary Beth Murrill, a spokeswoman for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. However, NASA officials insist the loss will not affect the mission of the orbiter's sister probe, the Mars Polar Lander, which is winging its way through space and is due to arrive in early December.

Ground controllers have determined that the orbiter, which was designed to circle the planet but not land on it, came within 36 miles (60 kilometers) of the Martian surface. That's about 15 miles (25 kilometers) lower than the lowest orbit the craft was designed to survive.

NASA officials have launched an investigation

into what caused the navigation error.

The orbiter carried instruments designed to study Mars' atmosphere and the fate of water that is believed to have once pooled there in huge oceans. The information is key to understanding whether life ever existed on Mars.

While the Mars orbiter was almost certainly lost due to human error, this is just another of a long series of space disasters that have plagued both the United States and Russia in their attempts to learn more about our planetary neighbours. (*For earlier examples of Mars/Spacecraft shenanigans, see The Galactic Ghoul, p.*)

ASTRONOMERS FIND THREE NEW, WEIRD MOONS FOR URANUS

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A telescope in Hawaii spotted three new, distant, weirdly-orbiting moons around Uranus, bringing that planet's satellite total to 21, the most in our solar system.

These new discoveries actually make Uranus look more like a normal member of the planet group that includes Earth, astronomers who first saw the new moons said.

"The discovery of these irregular satellites is very important because it means that Uranus is not some oddball, but rather is just like Neptune, Saturn, and Jupiter," Matthew Holman of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics said in a statement Monday.

That is because most of the other giant planets had these unusual moons, and until recently, Uranus did not, the astronomers said.

If these three new moons are confirmed and added to two other irregular satellites discovered in 1997, Uranus would have 16 regular and five irregular moons, the most of any known planet.

Irregular satellites do not follow the normal, near-circular orbits of most satellites, as Earth's Moon does. Instead, these irregular objects either travel in highly elliptical orbits, or follow paths that are severely tipped to the plane of the planet's equator, the scientists said.

To find these new moons, the astronomers used the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope in Hawaii.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9th November, 1999
7:00pm - 10:00pm

THE THREE CRANES
Queen Street
Sheffield City Centre

FORUM

DARK MOON. Apollo and the Whistle-Blowers.

By Eileen Fletcher

Continuing the debate over the so-called 'Moon-gate' affair, this month Eileen Fletcher, the originator of the thread, responds to Jon Slater's points raised in the last issue...

The main thrust of the book *Dark Moon* is to question the validity of the official record of mankind's exploration of the moon, especially the Apollo lunar 'landings' themselves.

There are 556 pages packed with information and photos, but obviously space in the newsletter dictates that we cannot mention everything in the book.

So here are just a fraction of the details and points raised.

The numerous inconsistencies clearly visible in the Apollo photographic record are irrefutable.

- In any scene lit by the sun - a single light source some 93 million miles away - shadow directions are constant ie. parallel, on flat terrain. The converging/diverging shadows in the 'moon' photos indicate an artificial light source in close proximity to the scene.
- The shadow lengths indicate a 'sun' angle of 26 degrees - almost double the 14 degrees it should have been at the time Armstrong and Aldrin were supposed to be walking on the moon.
- Light in a vacuum is high contrast - very bright on the sun side, very dark on the shadow side. Many of the photos are filled in with light on the shadow side, yet no supplementary lighting was seen to be set up in the recorded TV coverage.

According to an expert at the Defence and Research Agency, Farnborough, "Radiation is a key issue - one of the biggest show stoppers in mankind's exploration of the universe! "

There are three primary sources of space radiation - the Van Allen belts encircling Earth, solar particle events emanating from the sun, and galactic cosmic radiation, the background radiation in the galaxy. The Earth's

atmosphere and magnetic field protect us from the bulk of this.

To summarise about the Van Allen belts: Starting at a height lower than 300 miles from the Earth's surface, there is a continuous zone of at least 54,000 miles of hazardous radiation. Any Apollo astronaut would have spent over two hours in each direction within the belts, thus absorbing high levels of radiation for a total of four hours, yet none of the named astronauts showed any signs of radiation sickness, despite it not being possible to shield their craft from such radiation.

In contrast to the constant nature of the Van Allen belts, solar particle events (solar flares) are unpredictable. According to leading American radiation experts: "Not even 30 cm (1 foot) of aluminium prevents astronauts from receiving a disabling dose from the conceivable, but highly unlikely, worst-case event ".

The Space Shuttle and the Russian space station MIR did not fly or orbit much above 248 miles from the Earth's surface. After 45 years of space exploration, this is as far as we are capable of putting a living organism or indeed a human being into space and bringing him/her back relatively safely. Indeed, solar activity has been known to adversely affect satellites and has destroyed at least one TV satellite - it was relaying Star Trek at the time!

The astronauts' space-suits consisted of layers of cloth coated with rubber, aluminium and Teflon, and we are asked to believe that this was sufficient to shield them from the radiation and micro-meteoroids encountered on the vacuum of the moon!

Read the book with an open mind. The questions it raises cannot be ignored, unless one prefers to stick one's head in the sand - isn't that what some individuals (so-called learned 'n'all) still do regarding UFOs?

Eileen & Chris Fletcher.

A Die-Hard Issue

CIA's ROLE IN THE STUDY OF UFOs, 1947-90 (part 1)

by Gerald K. Haines

An extraordinary 95 percent of all Americans have at least heard or read something about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), and 57 percent believe they are real.⁽¹⁾ Former US Presidents Carter and Reagan claim to have seen a UFO. UFOlogists--a neologism for UFO buffs--and private UFO organizations are found throughout the United States. Many are convinced that the US Government, and particularly CIA, are engaged in a massive conspiracy and coverup of the issue. The idea that CIA has secretly concealed its research into UFOs has been a major theme of UFO buffs since the modern UFO phenomena emerged in the late 1940s.⁽²⁾

In late 1993, after being pressured by UFOlogists for the release of additional CIA information on UFOs,⁽³⁾ DCI R. James Woolsey ordered another review of all Agency files on UFOs. Using CIA records compiled from that review, this study traces CIA interest and involvement in the UFO controversy from the late 1940s to 1990. It chronologically examines the Agency's efforts to solve the mystery of UFOs, its programs that had an impact on UFO sightings, and its attempts to conceal CIA involvement in the entire UFO issue. What emerges from this examination is that, while Agency concern over UFOs was substantial until the early 1950s, CIA has since paid only limited and peripheral attention to the phenomena.

Background

The emergence in 1947 of the Cold War confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union also saw the first wave of UFO sightings. The first report of a "flying saucer" over the United States came on 24 June 1947, when Kenneth Arnold, a private pilot and reputable businessman, while looking for a downed plane sighted nine disk-shaped objects near Mt. Rainier, Washington, traveling at an estimated speed of over 1,000 mph. Arnold's report was followed by a flood of additional sightings, including reports from military and civilian pilots and air traffic

controllers all over the United States.⁽⁴⁾ In 1948, Air Force Gen. Nathan Twining, head of the Air Technical Service Command, established Project SIGN (initially named Project SAUCER) to collect, collate, evaluate, and distribute within the government all information relating to such sightings, on the premise that UFOs might be real and of national security concern.⁽⁵⁾

The Technical Intelligence Division of the Air Material Command (AMC) at Wright Field (later Wright-Patterson Air Force Base) in Dayton, Ohio, assumed control of Project SIGN and began its work on 23 January 1948. Although at first fearful that the objects might be Soviet secret weapons, the Air Force soon concluded that UFOs were real but easily explained and not extraordinary. The Air Force report found that almost all sightings stemmed from one or more of three causes: mass hysteria and hallucination, hoax, or misinterpretation of known objects. Nevertheless, the report recommended continued military intelligence control over the investigation of all sightings and did not rule out the possibility of extraterrestrial phenomena.⁽⁶⁾

Amid mounting UFO sightings, the Air Force continued to collect and evaluate UFO data in the late 1940s under a new project, GRUDGE, which tried to alleviate public anxiety over UFOs via a public relations campaign designed to persuade the public that UFOs constituted nothing unusual or extraordinary. UFO sightings were explained as balloons, conventional aircraft, planets, meteors, optical illusions, solar reflections, or even "large hailstones." GRUDGE officials found no evidence in UFO sightings of advanced foreign weapons design or development, and they concluded that UFOs did not threaten US security. They recommended that the project be reduced in scope because the very existence of Air Force official interest encouraged people to believe in UFOs and contributed to a "war hysteria" atmosphere. On 27 December

1949, the Air Force announced the project's termination.(7)

With increased Cold War tensions, the Korean war, and continued UFO sightings, USAF Director of Intelligence Maj. Gen. Charles P. Cabell ordered a new UFO project in 1952. Project BLUE BOOK became the major Air Force effort to study the UFO phenomenon throughout the 1950s and 1960s.(8) The task of identifying and explaining UFOs continued to fall on the Air Material Command at Wright-Patterson. With a small staff, the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) tried to persuade the public that UFOs were not extraordinary.(9) Projects SIGN, GRUDGE, and BLUE BOOK set the tone for the official US Government position regarding UFOs for the next 30 years.

Early CIA Concerns, 1947-52

CIA closely monitored the Air Force effort, aware of the mounting number of sightings and increasingly concerned that UFOs might pose a potential security threat.(10) Given the distribution of the sightings, CIA officials in 1952 questioned whether they might reflect "midsummer madness." (11) Agency officials accepted the Air Force's conclusions about UFO reports, although they concluded that "since there is a remote possibility that they may be interplanetary aircraft, it is necessary to investigate each sighting." (12)

A massive buildup of sightings over the United States in 1952, especially in July, alarmed the Truman administration. On 19 and 20 July, radar scopes at Washington National Airport and Andrews Air Force Base tracked mysterious blips. On 27 July, the blips reappeared. The Air Force scrambled interceptor aircraft to investigate, but they found nothing. The incidents, however, caused headlines across the country. The White House wanted to know what was happening, and the Air Force quickly offered the explanation that the radar blips might be the result of "temperature inversions." Later, a Civil Aeronautics Administration investigation confirmed that such radar blips were quite common and were caused by temperature inversions.(13)

Although it had monitored UFO reports for at least three years, CIA reacted to the new rash of sightings by forming a special study group within the Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI) and the Office of Current Intelligence (OCI) to review the situation.(14) Edward

Tauss, acting chief of OSI's Weapons and Equipment Division, reported for the group that most UFO sightings could be easily explained. Nevertheless, he recommended that the Agency continue monitoring the problem, in coordination with ATIC. He also urged that CIA conceal its interest from the media and the public, "in view of their probable alarmist tendencies" to accept such interest as confirming the existence of UFOs.(15)

Upon receiving the report, Deputy Director for Intelligence (DDI) Robert Amory, Jr. assigned responsibility for the UFO investigations to OSI's Physics and Electronics Division, with A. Ray Gordon as the officer in charge.(16) Each branch in the division was to contribute to the investigation, and Gordon was to coordinate closely with ATIC. Amory, who asked the group to focus on the national security implications of UFOs, was relaying DCI Walter Bedell Smith's concerns.(17) Smith wanted to know whether or not the Air Force investigation of flying saucers was sufficiently objective and how much more money and manpower would be necessary to determine the cause of the small percentage of unexplained flying saucers. Smith believed "there was only one chance in 10,000 that the phenomenon posed a threat to the security of the country, but even that chance could not be taken." According to Smith, it was CIA's responsibility by statute to coordinate the intelligence effort required to solve the problem. Smith also wanted to know what use could be made of the UFO phenomenon in connection with US psychological warfare efforts.(18)

Led by Gordon, the CIA Study Group met with Air Force officials at Wright-Patterson and reviewed their data and findings. The Air Force claimed that 90 percent of the reported sightings were easily accounted for. The other 10 percent were characterized as "a number of incredible reports from credible observers." The Air Force rejected the theories that the sightings involved US or Soviet secret weapons development or that they involved "men from Mars"; there was no evidence to support these concepts. The Air Force briefers sought to explain these UFO reports as the misinterpretation of known objects or little understood natural phenomena.(19) Air Force and CIA officials agreed that outside knowledge of Agency interest in UFOs would make the problem more serious.(20) This concealment of CIA interest contributed greatly to later charges of a CIA conspiracy and coverup.

The CIA Study Group also searched the Soviet press for UFO reports, but found none, causing the group to conclude that the absence of reports had to have been the result of deliberate Soviet Government policy. The group also envisioned the USSR's possible use of UFOs as a psychological warfare tool. In addition, they worried that, if the US air warning system should be deliberately overloaded by UFO sightings, the Soviets might gain a surprise advantage in any nuclear attack.(21)

Because of the tense Cold War situation and increased Soviet capabilities, the CIA Study Group saw serious national security concerns in the flying saucer situation. The group believed that the Soviets could use UFO reports to touch off mass hysteria and panic in the United States. The group also believed that the Soviets might use UFO sightings to overload the US air warning system so that it could not distinguish real targets from phantom UFOs. H. Marshall Chadwell, Assistant Director of OSI, added that he considered the problem of such importance "that it should be brought to the attention of the National Security Council, in order that a communitywide coordinated effort towards its solution may be initiated." (22)

Chadwell briefed DCI Smith on the subject of UFOs in December 1952. He urged action because he was convinced that "something was going on that must have immediate attention" and that "sightings of unexplained objects at great altitudes and traveling at high speeds in the vicinity of major US defense installations are of such nature that they are not attributable to natural phenomena or known types of aerial vehicles."

He drafted a memorandum from the DCI to the National Security Council (NSC) and a proposed NSC Directive establishing the investigation of UFOs as a priority project throughout the intelligence and the defense research and development community.(23)

Chadwell also urged Smith to establish an external research project of top-level scientists to study the problem of UFOs.(24) After this briefing, Smith directed DDI Amory to prepare a NSC Intelligence Directive (NSCID) for submission to the NSC on the need to continue the investigation of UFOs and to coordinate such investigations with the Air Force.(25)

The Robertson Panel 1952-53

On 4 December 1952, the Intelligence Advisory Committee (IAC) took up the issue of UFOs.(26) Amory, as acting chairman, presented DCI Smith's request to the committee that it informally discuss the subject of UFOs. Chadwell then briefly reviewed the situation and the active program of the ATIC relating to UFOs. The committee agreed that the DCI should "enlist the services of selected scientists to review and appraise the available evidence in the light of pertinent scientific theories" and draft an NSCID on the subject.(27) Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, Director of Air Force Intelligence, offered full cooperation.(28)

At the same time, Chadwell looked into British efforts in this area. He learned the British also were active in studying the UFO phenomena. An eminent British scientist, R. V. Jones, headed a standing committee created in June 1951 on flying saucers. Jones' and his committee's conclusions on UFOs were similar to those of Agency officials: the sightings were not enemy aircraft but misrepresentations of natural phenomena. The British noted, however, that during a recent air show RAF pilots and senior military officials had observed a "perfect flying saucer." Given the press response, according to the officer, Jones was having a most difficult time trying to correct public opinion regarding UFOs. The public was convinced they were real.(29)

In January 1953, Chadwell and H. P. Robertson, a noted physicist from the California Institute of Technology, put together a distinguished panel of nonmilitary scientists to study the UFO issue. It included Robertson as chairman; Samuel A. Goudsmit, a nuclear physicist from the Brookhaven National Laboratories; Luis Alvarez, a high-energy physicist; Thornton Page, the deputy director of the Johns Hopkins Operations Research Office and an expert on radar and electronics; and Lloyd Berkner, a director of the Brookhaven National Laboratories and a specialist in geophysics.(30)

The charge to the panel was to review the available evidence on UFOs and to consider the possible dangers of the phenomena to US national security. The panel met from 14 to 17 January 1953. It reviewed Air Force data on UFO case histories and, after spending 12 hours studying the phenomena, declared that reasonable explanations could be suggested for most, if not all, sightings. For example, after

reviewing motion-picture film taken of a UFO sighting near Tremonton, Utah, on 2 July 1952 and one near Great Falls, Montana, on 15 August 1950, the panel concluded that the images on the Tremonton film were caused by sunlight reflecting off seagulls and that the images at Great Falls were sunlight reflecting off the surface of two Air Force interceptors.(31)

The panel concluded unanimously that there was no evidence of a direct threat to national security in the UFO sightings. Nor could the panel find any evidence that the objects sighted might be extraterrestrials. It did find that continued emphasis on UFO reporting might threaten "the orderly functioning" of the government by clogging the channels of communication with irrelevant reports and by inducing "hysterical mass behavior" harmful to constituted authority. The panel also worried that potential enemies contemplating an attack on the United States might exploit the UFO phenomena and use them to disrupt US air defenses.(32)

To meet these problems, the panel recommended that the National Security Council debunk UFO reports and institute a policy of public education to reassure the public of the lack of evidence behind UFOs. It suggested using the mass media, advertising, business clubs, schools, and even the Disney corporation to get the message across. Reporting at the height of McCarthyism, the panel also recommended that such private UFO groups as the Civilian Flying Saucer Investigators in Los Angeles and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in Wisconsin be monitored for subversive activities. (33)

The Robertson panel's conclusions were strikingly similar to those of the earlier Air Force project reports on SIGN and GRUDGE and to those of the CIA's own OSI Study Group. All investigative groups found that UFO reports indicated no direct threat to national security and no evidence of visits by extraterrestrials.

Following the Robertson panel findings, the Agency abandoned efforts to draft an NSCID on UFOs.(34) The Scientific Advisory Panel on UFOs (the Robertson panel) submitted its report to the IAC, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the Federal Civil Defense Administration, and the Chairman of the National Security Resources Board. CIA officials said no further consideration of the

subject appeared warranted, although they continued to monitor sightings in the interest of national security. Philip Strong and Fred Durant from OSI also briefed the Office of National Estimates on the findings.(35) CIA officials wanted knowledge of any Agency interest in the subject of flying saucers carefully restricted, noting not only that the Robertson panel report was classified but also that any mention of CIA sponsorship of the panel was forbidden. This attitude would later cause the Agency major problems relating to its credibility.(36)

(Continued next issue...)

Notes

1)See the 1973 Gallup Poll results printed in *The New York Times*, 29 November 1973, p. 45 and Philip J. Klass, *UFOs: The Public Deceived* (New York: Prometheus Books, 1983), p. 3.

2)See Klass, *UFOs*, p. 3; James S. Gordon, "The UFO Experience," *Atlantic Monthly* (August 1991), pp. 82-92; David Michael Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy in America* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1975); Howard Blum, *Out There: The Government's Secret Quest for Extraterrestrials* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1990); Timothy Good, *Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Cover-Up* (New York: William Morrow, 1987); and Whitley Strieber, *Communion: The True Story* (New York: Morrow, 1987).

3)In September 1993 John Peterson, an acquaintance of Woolsey's, first approached the DCI with a package of heavily sanitized CIA material on UFOs released to UFOlogist Stanton T. Friedman. Peterson and Friedman wanted to know the reasons for the redactions. Woolsey agreed to look into the matter. See Richard J. Warshaw, Executive Assistant, note to author, 1 November 1994; Warshaw, note to John H. Wright, Information and Privacy Coordinator, 31 January 1994; and Wright, memorandum to Executive Secretariat, 2 March 1994. (Except where noted, all citations to CIA records in this article are to the records collected for the 1994 Agency-wide search that are held by the Executive Assistant to the DCI).

4)See Hector Quintanilla, Jr., "The Investigation of UFOs," Vol. 10, No. 4, *Studies in Intelligence* (fall 1966): pp.95-110 and CIA, unsigned memorandum, "Flying Saucers," 14 August 1952. See also Good, *Above Top Secret*, p. 253. During World War II, US pilots reported "foo fighters" (bright lights trailing US aircraft). Fearing they might be Japanese or German secret weapons, OSS investigated but could find no concrete evidence of enemy weapons and often filed such reports in the "crackpot" category. The OSS also investigated possible sightings of German V-1 and V-2 rockets before their operational use during the war. See Jacobs, *UFO Controversy*, p. 33. The Central Intelligence Group, the predecessor of the CIA, also monitored reports

of "ghost rockets" in Sweden in 1946. See CIG, Intelligence Report, 9 April 1947.

5) Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, p. 156 and Quintanilla, "The Investigation of UFOs," p. 97.

6) See US Air Force, Air Material Command, "Unidentified Aerial Objects: Project SIGN, no. F-TR 2274, IA, February 1949, Records of the US Air Force Commands, Activities and Organizations, Record Group 341, National Archives, Washington, DC.

7) See US Air Force, *Projects GRUDGE and BLUEBOOK Reports 1- 12* (Washington, DC; National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, 1968) and Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, pp. 50-54.

8) See Cabell, memorandum to Commanding Generals Major Air Commands, "Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft," 8 September 1950 and Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, p. 65.

9) See Air Force, *Projects GRUDGE and BLUEBOOK* and Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, p. 67.

10) See Edward Tauss, memorandum for Deputy Assistant Director, SI, "Flying Saucers," 1 August 1952. See also United Kingdom, Report by the "Flying Saucer" Working Party, "Unidentified Flying Objects," no date (approximately 1950).

11) See Dr. Stone, OSI, memorandum to Dr. Willard Machle, OSI, 15 March 1949 and Ralph L. Clark, Acting Assistant Director, OSI, memorandum for DDI, "Recent Sightings of Unexplained Objects," 29 July 1952.

12) Stone, memorandum to Machle. See also Clark, memorandum for DDI, 29 July 1952.

13) See Klass, UFOs, p. 15. For a brief review of the Washington sightings see Good, *Above Top Secret*, pp. 269-271.

14) See Ralph L. Clark, Acting Assistant Director, OSI, memorandum to DDI Robert Amory, Jr., 29 July 1952. OSI and OCI were in the Directorate of Intelligence. Established in 1948, OSI served as the CIA's focal point for the analysis of foreign scientific and technological developments. In 1980, OSI was merged into the Office of Science and Weapons Research. The Office of Current Intelligence (OCI), established on 15 January 1951 was to provide all-source current intelligence to the President and the National Security Council.

15) Tauss, memorandum for Deputy Assistant Director, SI (Philip Strong), 1 August 1952.

16) On 2 January 1952, DCI Walter Bedell Smith created a Deputy Directorate for Intelligence (DDI) composed of six overt CIA organizations—OSI, OCI, Office of Collection and Dissemination, Office

National Estimates, Office of Research and Reports, and the Office of Intelligence Coordination—to produce intelligence analysis for US policymakers.

17) See Minutes of Branch Chief's Meeting, 11 August 1952.

18) Smith expressed his opinions at a meeting in the DCI Conference Room attended by his top officers. See Deputy Chief, Requirements Staff, FI, memorandum for Deputy Director, Plans, "Flying Saucers," 20 August 1952, Directorate of Operations Records, Information Management Staff, Job 86-00538R, Box 1.

19) See CIA memorandum, unsigned, "Flying Saucers," 11 August 1952.

20) See CIA, memorandum, unsigned, "Flying Saucers," 14 August 1952.

21) See CIA, memorandum, unsigned, "Flying Saucers," 19 August 1952.

22) See Chadwell, memorandum for Smith, 17 September 1952 and 24 September 1952, "Flying Saucers." See also Chadwell, memorandum for DCI Smith, 2 October 1952 and Klass, *UFOs*, pp. 23-26.

23) Chadwell, memorandum for DCI with attachments, 2 December 1952. See also Klass, *UFOs*, pp. 26-27 and Chadwell, memorandum, 25 November 1952.

24) See Chadwell, memorandum, 25 November 1952 and Chadwell, memorandum, "Approval in Principle - External Research Project Concerned with Unidentified Flying Objects," no date. See also Philip G. Strong, OSI, memorandum for the record, "Meeting with Dr. Julius A. Stratton, Executive Vice President and Provost, MIT and Dr. Max Millikan, Director of CENIS." Strong believed that in order to undertake such a review they would need the full backing and support of DCI Smith.

25) See Chadwell, memorandum for DCI, "Unidentified Flying Objects," 2 December 1952. See also Chadwell, memorandum for Amory, DDI, "Approval in Principle - External Research Project Concerned with Unidentified Flying Objects," no date.

26) The IAC was created in 1947 to serve as a coordinating body in establishing intelligence requirements. Chaired by the DCI, the IAC included representatives from the Department of State, the Army, the Air Force, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the FBI, and the AEC.

(27) See Klass, *UFOs*, p. 27.

(28) See Richard D. Drain, Acting Secretary, IAC, "Minutes of Meeting held in Director's Conference Room, Administration Building, CIA," 4 December 1952.

(29)See Chadwell, memorandum for the record, "British Activity in the Field of UFOs," 18 December 1952.

(30)See Chadwell, memorandum for DCI, "Consultants for Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects," 9 January 1953; Curtis Peebles, *Watch the Skies! A Chronicle of the Flying Saucer Myth* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1994), pp. 73-90; and Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, pp. 91-92.

(31)See Fred C. Durant III, Report on the Robertson Panel Meeting, January 1953. Durant, on contract with OSI and a past president of the American Rocket Society, attended the Robertson panel meetings and wrote a summary of the proceedings.

(32)See Report of the Scientific Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects (the Robertson Report),

17 January 1953 and the Durant report on the panel discussions.

(33)See Robertson Report and Durant Report. See also Good, *Above Top Secret*, pp. 337-38, Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, p. 95, and Klass, *UFO's*, pp. 28-29.

(34)See Reber, memorandum to IAC, 18 February 1953.

(35)See Chadwell, memorandum for DDI, "Unidentified Flying Objects," 10 February 1953; Chadwell, letter to Robertson, 28 January 1953; and Reber, memorandum for IAC, "Unidentified Flying Objects," 18 February 1953. On briefing the ONE, see Durant, memorandum for the record, "Briefing of ONE Board on Unidentified Flying Objects," 30 January 1953 and CIA Summary disseminated to the field, "Unidentified Flying Objects," 6 February 1953.

UFOIN - A new start for British UFOlogy

By Jenny Randles

Some of the UKs most experienced investigators today launched a bold initiative. They have banded together under a common name - UFOIN (UFO Investigators Network) in an attempt to professionalise UFOlogy in Britain.

UFOIN is a very different kind of UFO network. It is not a membership group. It is not seeking to replace existing groups. It will operate without bureaucracy, committees or rulers and free of all politics. Its most basic principle is a commitment to openness in all that it does. Its decisions will be taken by a vote of all team members. Its actions will be open to public scrutiny. Its publications and files will be accessible to all participants for research purposes. Anyone who works with UFOIN will feel part of a team, not apart from team leaders. Indeed every UFOIN participant has equal status.

UFOIN will be run by investigators for investigators and with 100% of its resources devoted to this task. Nothing will be spent pandering to enthusiasts, putting on lectures or printing magazines. UFOIN will exist purely to conduct objective, in depth investigations to well honed scientific principles. It will also conduct new research that will seek to answer basic questions about the UFO mystery.

Here are some of the decisions taken by the founders of UFOIN for immediate implementation.

1: UFOIN is to be a union of UFOlogists with proven desire to investigate objectively, research through scientific principles, promote solutions to cases whenever they are found but to recognise and speak up for unsolved data when discovered.

2: It will seek to work in harmony with each other and all other responsible aspects of UFOlogy. There will be no members, membership fees, committees, rulers, hierarchy nor structure. The team will be a UK network of people with similar principles working towards a common goal.

3: A professionalised team of investigators will be based upon proven expertise. Entry will be open to anyone who believes that they can meet the rigorous standards. This requires the submission of a recent case investigation report to prove skill, competence, objectivity and a personal quest to find answers behind a sighting. It also requires acceptance of the ban on the use of hypnotic regression and signature to the code of practice.

4: UFOIN will be highly selective in its investigation work - focusing on in depth re-appraisals of important old cases and seeking new reports that offer potential to add to our knowledge. To this end the professional

expertise of the team will be offered to science and education. UFOIN will emphasise the 90% track record in case solving as professed by serious UFOlogy and will play down the use of emotive terms such as UFO and alien, focusing instead on anomalies, scientific puzzles and using phrases such as IFO and UAP. It will seek to work with both open minded scientists and sceptics and handle UFO data from a rational perspective, steering away from the extreme views and ideologies expressed by parts of the old style UFO community.

5: Participants will benefit from working as part of a professionalised, experienced investigation team whose only goal will be truth, however mundane that may prove to be. Access to a team of advisers, comprising scientists, MOD officials, etc, is already in development. And a research fund will be offered for use by the team. Grants from that fund for R & I work will be speedily decided without cumbersome committees. Regular meetings of the team will foster exchange of experience and UFO information.

6: UFOIN will not produce a magazine. Publication policy will involve a steady stream of special reports under the UFOIN banner. These will comprise research projects, retrospective case investigations and current case histories. They will be compiled and produced to a common format by the investigator / researcher directly involved in each project. All proceeds will enter the central R & I fund - in turn allowing future projects. UFOIN will aim for at least 3 - 4 reports per year. Assistance and contributions from scientists and experts outside the UFO field will be included to help make these progress reports more definitive. Diverse projects are already under development for early publication.

7: One priority report will involve scientists and sceptics assessing the strengths and weaknesses of UFO investigation to provide UFOIN with guidelines on how to develop its objectives to mutual advantage and furtherance of common goals.

8: Another new venture will be an annual research report. Each January UFOIN members will define the topic for that year's report. An initial briefing paper introducing the topic will define the questions that most need answering within that field. The briefing paper will be circulated widely to UFOlogy and beyond to professional agencies that might assist in fulfilling its objectives. A series of

research components will be allocated so that all major areas of exploration are followed within the defined topic. The book length report (a definitive study of these questions) will then be published including all research results and contributions before the year-end. The following year a new research topic will be pursued on a similar basis creating a momentum of ongoing work involving the UFOIN team.

9: A high quality, user friendly web site is under professional design. This will include many features of value to investigators and researchers. Electronic copies of all UFOIN reports will be published on the site after sale of hard copy versions. All local UFO groups who publish their own small run magazines or independent journals are invited to participate in a new electronic magazine here. Each month a selection of highlighted material will be compiled (with full credit and subscription details offered as free promotion to local groups). The result will be both an Internet based 'best of British UFOlogy' digest with the major articles, case investigations etc and a net based advertisement for high quality local UFO groups and their studies. The basic web framework is already in existence and will grow rapidly in the next few weeks. During that time regular updates will be posted showing the response of UFOlogists all over the world to this announcement. As part of UFOINs ideals your ideas, comments, suggestions and constructive criticisms will all be aired. UFOIN will listen to views of fellow UFOlogists.

10: The R & I fund that will facilitate investigations, research and publication will be the only money administered by UFOIN. All proceeds from whatever origin (e.g. publication sales, donations, and special ventures) will be devoted exclusively to this fund. No money will be used on administration, organising lectures, or other none R & I pursuits.

11: A number of ventures are to be reviewed to find rapid ways to create and renew this fund. This will allow it to continually fulfill its purpose without courting inactive UFOlogists for membership fees:

A: Grant funding for an educational arm of UFOIN, that will offer free lectures to schools, libraries and serve as an information agency

B: Exploration of public services from which 100% of all proceeds will go into the fund

C: Production of a series of objective UFO videos on the realities of UFO research to be

created and marketed by UFOIN with 100% of proceeds into the R & I fund.

D: As a 'quick fix' to kick start the fund several members of the UFOIN team (including David Clarke, Andy Roberts and Jenny Randles) are to publish a commercial book that could raise substantial funding . The ethos of this fund, disenchantment with traditional UFOlogy, the need to revolutionise serious investigation and research and aims of the UFOIN project will be used to help market the book.

The twelve people below who have founded UFOIN are convinced that it is essential to progress UFOlogy beyond its current stasis. The above plans are being put into practice now because an urgent need exists to coordinate UFO study in the UK towards a more rational perspective.

As such a new style of UFOlogy for the 21st century has now arrived .

If you feel that you have got what it takes to join the fight to reverse the fortunes of serious UFO study and prove that UFOlogy can be done objectively and scientifically, then what are you waiting for?

UFOIN needs you. And if you share the sentiments above then you need UFOIN.

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Signed (in alphabetical order):

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